

Sarah McNamara

RESEARCHER & PHD CANDIDATE

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Current Position

Doctoral Researcher

ZEW Mannheim, Department “Labour Markets and Social Insurance”

Mannheim, Germany

Apr 2020-Present

PhD Candidate

Utrecht University School of Economics

Utrecht, Netherlands

exp. Defence 2025/2026

Supervisors: Anna Salomons, Ulrich Zierahn-Weilage, Elena Fumagalli, and Friedhelm Pfeiffer

Research Interests

Labor Economics - Regional Economics - Human Capital - Intergenerational Mobility - Geographic Mobility - Technological Change

Education

PhD Training/Summer Schools

Identification Strategies in Econometrics University of Mannheim CDSE/ZEW Mannheim (5 ECTS)

Mannheim, Germany

Aug 2021

Applied Theory University of Mannheim CDSE/ZEW Mannheim (5 ECTS)

Aug 2021

Economics of Migration University of Mannheim CDSE/ZEW Mannheim (5 ECTS)

Aug 2020

PhD Econometrics University of Mannheim CDSE (8 ECTS)

Jan 2019

PhD Macroeconomics University of Mannheim CDSE (8 ECTS)

Jan 2018

PhD Microeconomics University of Mannheim CDSE (8 ECTS)

Jan 2018

PhD Mathematics University of Mannheim CDSE (6 ECTS)

Nov 2017

University of Mannheim

Mannheim, Germany

MSc in Economics

Sep 2017 - Jan 2020

120 ECTS, Grade: 1.9

Thesis: “Individual Returns to Higher Education: a Double Machine Learning Approach”, Grade: 1

Queen’s University Belfast

Belfast, Northern Ireland

BSc Hons in Economics

Sep 2013 - Jun 2017

Graduated with First Class Honours

Thesis: “Availability or Entitlements: The East India Company and the Bengal Famine, 1770”, Grade: 1st

Publications

DISCUSSION PAPERS

McNamara, Sarah, Guido Neidhöfer & Patrick Lehnert. “Intergenerational Mobility of Education in Europe: Geographical Patterns, Cohort-Linked Measures, and the Innovation Nexus”, ZEW Discussion Paper No. 24-004.

Sarah McNamara. “Returns to Higher Education & Dropouts: a Double Machine Learning Approach”, ZEW Discussion Paper No. 20-084.

WORK IN PROGRESS

McNamara, Sarah, Maximilian Bach & Thilo Klein. “The Effects of Grammar School Attendance: Evidence from Centralized Assignments”.

Sarah McNamara. “Close the Door Before You Go: Do Childhood Economic Circumstances and Intergenerational Mobility Affect Preferences for Social Redistribution?”.

McNamara, Sarah & Ulrich Zierahn-Weilage. “Regional Technological Resilience and Intergenerational Mobility in Germany”.

POLICY REPORTS

Bach, Maximilian, Guido Neidhöfer, Sarah McNamara and Friedhelm Pfeiffer. 2020. “Rethinking Schooling, On the effects of school closures on the competence development of primary school children and the need for equality in education provision”, ZEW-Kurzexpertise Nr. 20-13.

Lange, Martin, McNamara, Sarah and Philipp Schmidt. 2024. “Recent Trends in Migrants’ Labour Market Integration in Europe”, Deliverable for EU Horizon 2020 Project: Welfare Systems and Labour Market Policies for Economic and Social Resilience in Europe .

Professional Experience

Research Assistant (<i>geprüfte wissenschaftliche Hilfskräfte</i>) ZEW Mannheim, Department “Labour Markets and Personnel Management”	Mannheim, Germany Feb 2020-Apr 2020
Student Research Assistant (<i>studentische Hilfskräfte</i>) ZEW Mannheim, Department “Labour Markets and Personnel Management”	Mannheim, Germany Apr 2018-Feb 2020

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewing	IEEP, Education Economics
Proofing/Copy-editing	ZEW Mannheim, IAB, European Commission - JRC Italy (Monitoring, Indicators & Impact Evaluation Unit)
Seminar Organization	Organization of the weekly seminar at the department “Labour Markets and Social Insurance”, ZEW Mannheim
Workshop Organization	Organizing committee for the SEEK-D3.2 Workshop on “Social Mobility and Economic Performance” (2021), and the 3rd International Workshop on “Immigration, Integration, and Attitudes” (2024, forthcoming)

SKILLS

Computer Skills	STATA, R (ggplot2), LaTeX, ArcGIS Pro, Matlab, Python (Pandas, PyTorch, NumPy, Scikit-learn. etc.), SAS, SQL
Languages	English (Native), Spanish (Professional), German (Intermediate), Portuguese (Intermediate)

Research Network Membership

WeLaR Research Consortium - Living in Switzerland

Select Seminar and Conference Presentations

2024	2024 Conference on Mechanism and Institution Design	Hungary
2024	XXXII Meeting of the Economics of Education Association (AEDE)	Spain
2024	Horizon Europe WeLaR Midterm Conference	Belgium
2023	European Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society (EWMES)	England
2022	VolkswagenStiftung Forum “Corona Crisis and Beyond”	Germany
2022	Swiss Leading House on Economics of Education/University of Zurich (invited)	Switzerland
2022	QUB 2022 Easter Workshop on School Choice	Northern Ireland
2021	CIDER-LERN Conference 2021	Germany
2021	XXIX Meeting of the Economics of Education Association (AEDE)	Spain

Participation in Funded Projects

Integration of Migrants and Attitudes towards the Welfare State	Dec 2023 - Ongoing
EU Horizon: Welfare Systems and Labour Market Policies for Economic and Social Resilience in Europe	Dec 2023 - Ongoing
Economic Upheaval and Human Capital Formation	Jun 2022 - Ongoing
Analyses of the Costs and Benefits of School Closures for the Containment of COVID-19	Jan 2021 - Ongoing
Improving School Admissions for Diversity and Better Learning Outcomes	Jun 2019 - Nov 2023
SEEK Project 2019: Social Mobility and Economic Performance	Jul 2019 - Mar 2021
Design and Impact of Admissions Rules for Schools	Jan 2019 - Jun 2022

Scholarships and Awards

2021	M. Jesús San Segundo Award , XXIX Meeting of the Economics of Education Association (AEDE)	Spain
2017	Degree Plus , Queen’s University Belfast	Northern Ireland